

### REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on January 22, 2004.

Claims 29, 30, and 41 are amended, no claims are canceled, and claims 46 and 47 are added; as a result, claims 13-18 and 26-47 are now pending in this application. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter is introduced. The amendments are made to clarify the claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Support for claim 46 is found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 19-21.

Support for claim 47 is found in the specification, for example, on page 4, lines 3-4.

### Claim Objection

Claim 41 was objected to due to informalities. Claim 41 is amended as suggested in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these objections to claim 41, and reconsideration and allowance of this claim.

### §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 27, 28 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (U.S. 6,144,224). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds for rejection of these claims.

Applicant can not find in Lee et al. (hereafter Lee) a teaching or suggestion of a clock signal distribution network using salphasic clocking techniques as recited in claim 27. The Office Action states "Lee et al disclose ... using salphasic (low skew) clocking techniques." Applicant respectfully disagrees. Though salphasic techniques as configured in embodiments of the instant application may provide low skew, apparatus providing low skew do not teach or suggest *per se* an apparatus using salphasic techniques. Lee appears to be void of a teaching or suggestion of an apparatus configured to use salphasic techniques. Therefore, Applicant submits that Lee does not teach or disclose all the elements of claim 27 and does not anticipate claim 27. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 is patentable over Lee.

Claims 28 and 31-33 depend on claim 27 and are patentable over Lee for the reasons stated above and in further view of the elements of these dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections of claims 27, 28 and 31-33, and reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

*First Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 13-18, 26, 34-40 and 42-45 were allowed. Applicant acknowledges allowance of these claims.

*Second Allowable Subject Matter*

Claim 41 was objected to due to informalities. Claim 41 is amended as suggested in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these objections to claim 41, and reconsideration and allowance of this claim.

Claims 29 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 29, as amended, is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 30 is amended to depend on claim 29. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 29 and 30.

*New Claims*

Newly added claims 46 and 47 depend on independent claim 29. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 46 and 47.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 371-2157) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 24 MARCH 2004

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 24 day of March, 2004.

Anne M. Richards

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Signature